

[8th December 1959]

Rise in the prices of foodstuffs

* 39 Q.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM,
 SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR,
 SRI N. K. PALANISAMI.
 SRI A. A. RASHEED : } Will the

Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take to control the rise in the prices of food articles?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : A statement is placed on the table of the House.

* 40 Q.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the rise in the prices of toor, toor-dhal, peas, peas-dhal, moong, moong-dhal, orid, orid-dhal, grams, gram-dhal and other pulses;

(b) what is the rise in prices due to; and

(c) how the Government propose to check the rise in the prices?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Generally speaking, the prices of all pulses and their products showed an upward trend in 1959 till March-April 1959, but from May 1959 onwards they have shown a declining trend, although there might be slight fluctuations.

(b) The rise in prices was partly due to the poor arrivals from the main producing centres in North India due to paucity of wagon facilities and partly to the speculative activities in North Indian markets.

(c) The Railway Board who were addressed to give priority and to allot sufficient number of wagons for the speedy despatch of stocks from the producing centres in North India have replied that movement from North to South was slightly difficult during June and July 1959, that during August and September 1959, movements were comparatively easier and that no difficulty could be anticipated in clearing the traffic relating to pulses and gram expeditiously.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, in view of the rise in prices of all food products, have the Government any proposal to stipulate or control the prices at which only these articles should be sold by the merchants in the State? If any contravention of price control is noticed, will the Government take any action against such of those people as have contravened the price regulations?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Regarding pulses and certain other food articles, there is at present no price control.